

Cognitive Mechanisms Behind the Memory-Undermining Effect of Feigned Crime-Related Amnesia

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Propositions of the Dissertation

Cognitive Mechanisms Behind the Memory-Undermining Effect of Feigned Crime-Related Amnesia

1. It is not surprising that, in absence of an organic cause, the authenticity of crime-related amnesia is often questioned

This thesis

2. Simulating amnesia indirectly represented a way to rehearse the crime event so that it generates a significant rehearse-practice effect

This thesis

3. Simulators may preserve the memory for a crime despite feigning amnesia and seem to be capable to automatically recognize their own self-generated version of the crime from the original one

This thesis

4. Because some defendants retrieve their version of the crime in a way to minimize legal and perhaps emotional consequences of their deeds, the act of feigning amnesia might lead to strengthening of trivial crime-related details in memory and forgetting of more important facts due to an inhibition-based mechanism

This thesis

5. “My own experience, during a period of over 11 years in a forensic unit, failed to confirm even one case of psychogenic amnesia in the absence of a psychotic episode, brain damage, or acute brain syndrome”

Cantor A., 1982

6. “Remembrance of things past is not necessarily the remembrance of things as they were”

Proust M., 1871–1922

7. “No matter how honest and well-intentioned we are [...] our brain is designed to be efficient, not accurate”

Manson M., 2016

8. “If you were foolish enough to sing all summer, you must dance supperless to bed in the winter”

Aesop, mid-6th century BC